SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT

1. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 2, page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/743,183 filed May 14, 2001, now U.S. Patent 6,705,587; which is a national stage application of International Application No. PCT/DE00/01408 filed ~~**May 5, 2000**~~ **May 4, 2000; which designated the United States, and claimed priority to German application number 19921242 filed May 7, 1999, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety**.

2. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 8, page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

Compensation collar 9, which consists of a soft, deformable material such as soft iron or soft copper, is inserted into the fuel injector that is completely assembled up to piezoactor 2. Instead of piezoactor 2, a prestressing device 10 the face 11 of which corresponds to baseplate 4 and is completely flat is then screwed into the fuel injector. The prestressing device 10 is screwed in until the flat face 11 of the prestressing device 10 begins to lift valve element 7 of the servo valve up from its valve seat due to the actuation of transfer element 5. Compensation collar 9, which is made of a soft material, on which the flat face 11 of the prestressing device 10 also acts, is permanently deformed by flowing of the material. When the prestressing device 10 is removed, compensation collar 9 then retains the thickness which it had when the prestressing device 10 was screwed in far enough for the servo valve to begin to open.

3. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 18, page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

Finally, if, instead of the prestressing device 10, piezoactor 2, baseplate 4 of which stands back by given idle stroke h as described above, is screwed into housing 1 of the fuel injector as far as the stop, i.e., up to contact of piezoactor housing 3 with compensation collar 9, the leading edge of piezoactor housing 3 is located where the face 11 of the prestressing device 10 was when the servo valve began to open. Since, however, baseplate 4 of piezoactor 2 stands back by given idle stroke h in the no-voltage state, the idle stroke of the actuating drive in the fuel injector, i.e., the play between baseplate 4 of piezoactor 2 and the servo valve, corresponds exactly to given value h.

4. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

In an alternative method of proceeding, piezoactor 2 is shaped in such a way before being mounted into injector housing 1 that baseplate 4 and housing 3 of piezoactor 2 are surface ground in the mounting-ready state but without voltage being applied. After the grinding process, baseplate 4 of piezoactor 2 is therefore at exactly the same location as housing 3 of piezoactor 2. For this the prestressing device 10 for deforming compensation collar 9 does not have a flat face but a face bearing a boss 12 of height h at the point or points at which the prestressing device 10 acts on transfer element 5.

5. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 9 page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

The central effective area 12 on the prestressing device 10 that engages transfer element 5 protrudes, in other words, in the mounting direction by given value h for the idle stroke compared with the effective area running around at the edge which engages with compensation collar 9.

6. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13 page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Instead of piezoactor 2, the prestressing device 10 is screwed, as for the first embodiment, into the fuel injector until valve element 7 of the servo valve begins to open due to the actuation of transfer element 5 by the raised section 12 on the face 11 of the prestressing device 10. Compensation collar 9 is thereby permanently deformed as above. Then, instead of the prestressing device 10, piezoactor 2, at which housing 3 and base plate 4 have been surface ground without applied voltage, is screwed into housing 1 of the fuel injector as far as the stop on compensation collar 9.

7. Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 120 page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

In this embodiment the idle stroke also has exactly given value h between piezoactor 2 and the servo valve, since the thickness of compensation collar 9 is adjusted with the prestressing device 10 in such a way that the servo valve begins to open only when the fuel injector is operated, after baseplate 4 of piezoactor 2 has covered no-load path h when triggered.